

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1        1 (Previously Submitted). A computer implemented system analysis and  
2        design method for use in a complex business environment characterized by  
3        a set of tightly linked business processes comprising the steps of:  
4                capturing in a framework a world view of business decisions that  
5        occur in a business process, wherein the world view is defined by business  
6        objectives, constraints, assumptions, data, and an underlying model used in  
7        the business decision, wherein a BDML (Business Decision Markup  
8        Language) is used to implement the framework for specifying the world  
9        view of the business decisions; and  
10               using the framework to specify and document each of the business  
11        decisions in the complex environment.

2 (Previously Canceled).

1        3 (Previously Submitted). The method of claim 1, wherein the BDML is  
2        used for the creation and maintenance of a knowledge base of business  
3        decisions and processes within an organization.

1        4 (Previously Submitted). The method of claim 1, wherein the BDML is  
2        used for the publication of the functional specification of a business  
3        application software system, the world view of a technical research paper  
4        in the area of business decisions and its findings.

1        5 (Previously Submitted). The method of claim 1, further comprising  
2        providing a BDML processor and conducting systematic documentation of  
3        said business decision's business objectives, constraints, assumptions,  
4        data, and underlying model in business processes, wherein said conducting  
5        systematic documentation includes forming the BDML as machine

6 readable by the BDML processor and by human users.

1 6 (Previously Submitted). The method of claim 1, wherein the BDML  
2 supports XML (eXtensible Markup Language) based standards for  
3 business-to-business exchanges.

1 7 (Previously Submitted). A BDML (Business Decision Markup  
2 Language) processor comprising:  
3 a syntax processor that checks the syntax correctness and syntax  
4 consistency within an individual and between different documents written  
5 in BDML;

6 a logic processor that checks logical consistency between different  
7 documents written in BDML, each document representing a business  
8 decision in terms of the decision's business objectives, constraints,  
9 assumptions, data, and underlying model among the different documents,  
10 wherein the check for logical consistency includes checking for logical  
11 consistency between their respective business objectives, constraints,  
12 assumptions, data, and underlying models; and

13 a knowledge-based processor including a knowledge base of  
14 business decisions, common choices for their decision support models and  
15 commercially available decision support systems, the knowledge-based  
16 processor provides suggestions for a set of BDML documents to improve  
17 consistency using the knowledge base.